

Functional Skills Reform Update 3

Welcome to the third update on the reform of Functional Skills. Since the last update, we have continued working on our offer, including our sample assessments and our schemes of work.

We have heard back from OFQUAL regarding our submission, and we are pleased to inform you that Pearson is now accredited for Functional Skills English and Mathematics at all levels.

Our specifications are now available on the [website](#).

Guided Learning Hours

The guided learning hours for the new reformed qualifications have now been set by the DfE and will be 55 hours per subject, per level.

Sample Assessments and Resources

We would like to make sure you are fully prepared for the changes to Functional Skills. To this end, we will have one set of sample assessments and one set of practice assessments ready for the first teach in September 2019. For Levels 1 and 2, these will be available to download as paper-based or onscreen, so your learners can practice using the assessment method they will use in the live tests. The sample assessments will be live on our website shortly and the target date for the practice assessments is the beginning of May.

In addition, we will be updating ExamWizard to map across questions from the legacy Functional Skills to ensure we have fuller coverage for you and your learners.

We will also be creating exemplar resources for all levels so you can see the necessary performance from learners to achieve a pass.

Functional Skills English

As part of the reform, OFQUAL have changed the requirements regarding monitoring visits for Speaking and Listening. These will now be carried out every year with either a face to face visit or a remote visit.

We have produced a document to highlight the words that will form the spelling tests at Entry Level. This is based on an original list from the DfE. This list can be found [here](#).

Spiky profiles are no longer allowed for Functional Skills English, meaning that learners will need to complete all elements of the assessment at the same level.

There will be no transference of credits between the legacy and the reform Functional Skills. This means learners who do not complete all three elements of the legacy by the last certification date of the 31st August 2020 will need to start again on the reformed qualifications.

Assessment Length for English

Level	Reading	Writing	Speaking and Listening
Entry 1	45 min	50 min	10-15 min
Entry 2	45 min	50 min	15-20 min
Entry 3	45 min	50 min	20-25 min
Level 1	60 min	60 min	30 min
Level 2	75 min	60 min	40 min

Functional Skills Mathematics

The assessment style and layout for the assessments will change at all levels to incorporate the non-calculator and calculator assessments. These will be sat as one assessment, albeit in two sections.

For Levels 1 and 2, the paper based format will change to mirror the format for the onscreen test, meaning that each question will have a separate context and the three context based sections are removed.

Assessment Length for Mathematics

Level	Calculator	Non-Calculator	Total
Entry 1	20 min	60 min	80 min
Entry 2	25 min	65 min	90 min
Entry 3	25 min	75 min	100 min
Level 1	25 min	90 min	115 min
Level 2	25 min	90 min	115 min